

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 1-27 were presented for initial examination in the present application. Subject to a restriction requirement, claims 1-11 and 16-27 have been provisionally elected for continued prosecution with claims 12-15 being withdrawn with traverse from consideration. Claim 7 is hereby presently amended to correct an informal error. No new matter has been added by such amendment.

The Applicants would like to express appreciation to the Examiner for the finding of allowable subject matter with respect to claims 1-11 and claims 21-27.

The Office Action rejected claims 16, 17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,806,811 to Viklund et al. (hereinafter the “'881 Viklund patent”). In response, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 16, 17 and 19 are patentable over the '881 Viklund patent and that such patent fails to disclose or suggest all of the claimed elements.

First, with respect to present claim 16, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 16 reads on a cable guide that includes an elongated member that supports both a plurality of projection arms extending from the elongated member and at least one L-shaped latching member also extending from the elongated member. Whereas, the '881 Viklund patent distinctly reads on a wire manager (10) that includes two side rails (12). Each side rail (12) has a series of retaining elements (16, 16a) attached thereto and, as suggested by the Action and (fig. 1),

extending therefrom. (col. 2, lines 2-6). However, Applicants respectfully note that one or more of the retaining members (16) (not the side rails (12)) is provided with a latch (26) for removably mounting the wire manager to a set of stand-off legs (60). The legs (60) including a complementary latch (40) for cooperating with the latch (26) to accomplish the removable mounting operation. (col. 2, lines 44-64; col. 3, lines 12-14; col. 4, lines 1-3; and col. 4, lines 57-58). Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the '881 Viklund patent neither discloses nor suggests an L-shaped latching member extending from the elongated member. Rather, Viklund et al. specifically teach that their latch is attached to one or more of the retaining members and not to the elongated side rails. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 16.

With respect to claims 17 and 19, which both depend directly from claim 16, Applicants respectfully submit that such claims are likewise patentable over the '881 Viklund patent at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 16. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of both claims 17 and 19 are also respectfully requested.

The Office Action also rejected claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '881 Viklund patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,489,565 to Krietzman et al. (hereinafter the "'565 Krietzman patent"). In response, the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 18, which depends directly from claim 16, is patentable over the cited reference combination at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 16. That is, the '565 Krietzman patent, which was cited by the Action for purportedly teaching "that it is known to


have a plurality of projection arms spaced apart by a distance equal to one rack mounting unit as set forth in col. 3, lines 5-9)", fails to overcome the deficiencies in the '881 Viklund patent identified above with respect to claim 16. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 18 are respectfully requested by Applicants.

Regarding the objection to claim 20, which claim also depends directly from claim 16, Applicants respectfully submit that, as claim 16 is patentable over the art of record, claim 20 is in condition for allowance. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the stated objection to claim 20 are respectfully requested.

In sum, it is respectfully submitted that the present pending claims are each patentable over the art cited in the Action and that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections/objections and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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